



February 2014

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Beyond the Green Wall: Native Hedgerows for Wildlife Habitat

Speaker: Pete Veilleux

Wednesday, February 26, 7:30 pm

Location: Auditorium, Orinda Public Library (directions below)



A fire at the Orinda BART station prevented Pete (shown above in a photo by Pedro Vasquez) from speaking last October but he's coming back to give his presentation this month.

According to the dictionary, a hedgerow is a row of bushes, shrubs, or trees forming a hedge. We often use hedges to create a sense of privacy in our gardens. But instead of one type of plant for a solid green wall, we can mix native species—and their flowers and berries—to create interest for us and habitat for our fellow creatures. Join us to learn which native plants work well in hedgerows and how to incorporate them into your garden.

Pete Veilleux, owner of East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery in Oakland, is a master designer and nurseryman, an avid photographer and plant explorer, and a horticultural innovator.

Pete builds gardens using native plants for long-lasting, self-sustaining landscapes. One of his goals is to help people make the connection between their yards and the greater wild world around us while getting the maximum use and pleasure from their patch of earth.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Auditorium of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Auditorium is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Call 510-496-6016 or email rosacalifornica2@earthlink.net if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way. From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

Next Month: March 26, 7:30 pm (Orinda Community Center, Room 6); Debra Trock: Collectors and collections: Stories from the California Academy of Sciences

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2014

President: Lesley Hunt; **Vice President and Chapter Council Delegate:** Bill Hunt; **Recording Secretary:** Sue Duckles; **Corresponding Secretary:** Clara Gerdes*; **Treasurer:** David Margolies.

Thanks to the members who showed their appreciation of the work of these dedicated volunteers by voting to elect them.

*Clara Gerdes volunteered to serve as Corresponding Secretary after the ballot was already printed. She was elected by the Board of Directors at their January meeting.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Richmond Bay Campus at Richmond Field Station (Richmond Shoreline Botanical Priority Protection Area (BPPA)).

On January 21, the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) submitted a letter commenting on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the Richmond Bay Campus Long Range Development Plan. This plan, which was created by the University of California at Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (UC/LBNL), sets the groundwork for a new UC/LBNL campus at the Richmond Field Station – part of our Richmond Shoreline BPPA. Please click [here](#) if you're interested in viewing any of the planning and environmental documents associated with this project.

EBCNPS's concerns lie in the characterization of and proposed avoidance measures for the remnant coastal prairie grassland at the site. We remain hopeful that UC/LBNL will challenge themselves to envision a project that values the natural resources and ecological context of their proposed site while at the same time achieving their goals for a state of the art research campus.

You can view a copy of EBCNPS's comment letter by clicking [here](#).

Our September 30, 2013 comment letter for this Long Range Development Plan that we submitted as an attachment to our January 21 letter can be viewed here: [EBCNPS Vision Statement for Richmond Bay Campus 2013](#).

In related news, on January 17th EBCNPS submitted comments in response to the "Draft Removal Action Workplan" (RAW) associated with this project. Our comments in that letter focus on the need to protect and avoid the native grassland areas during implementation of clean-up projects for toxic materials that remain in sections of the site due to past industrial uses. Our RAW response letter can be viewed at [this link](#).

The Conservation Committee plans to follow this project as a priority. We are hopeful that the Final LRDP and EIR will show substantial modifications in response to the comments received from EBCNPS's and other local environmental groups who responded to the DEIR.

Tesla (Corral Hollow BPPA)

On Monday, January 13th EBCNPS joined several other local organizations in making comments and submitting a letter to the Livermore City Council asking them to support the preservation of the Tesla Park land as a non-motorized park and preserve.

The comments from EBCNPS and the other Tesla Park Coalition groups were submitted during the "Citizens Forum" period to raise awareness about and to urge the council to comment on the Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area General Plan and to take a stand to preserve Tesla Park (EBCNPS's Corral Hollow Botanical Priority Protection Area).

This effort was undertaken to show the unified support of the environmental community in the Livermore Area for permanent protection of Tesla Park.

You can view a copy of EBCNPS's letter by clicking this link: [Tesla Letter to Livermore 1-13-14](#).

In response to the outpouring of support for protection of Tesla Park, the City Council directed staff to review the DEIR when it is published and to provide information about it to the council. We are hopeful that the City of Livermore will take note of the support in the environmental community for a non-motorized alternative for Tesla Park and that they will be involved in this process in the future.

The Livermore Independent wrote an article about the meeting that can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Attention Tri-Valley Residents: Volunteer Opportunity Starting Mid February!

EBCNPS has been following an effort over the past several months by Dublin residents to craft and submit an initiative in Dublin that would create an urban limit line on Dublin's eastern boundary. This initiative represents a great opportunity to protect Doolan Canyon (part of our East Dublin and Tassajara BPPA) from urban development. As of last week, the initiative was submitted to the City, and now we are hoping to help this effort by mobilizing volunteers for the signature drive to qualify the initiative. I will have more info to share about this opportunity in the coming weeks.

If you are a Tri-Valley resident (or are just a member interested in working to protect one of our BPPAs) who is interested in getting involved and donating some of your time on weekends starting in mid-February, please contact me, Mack Casterman, EBCNPS Conservation Analyst, at conservation@ebcnps.org.

The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects, please visit the [Conservation Blog](#).



The Tesla property near Livermore Photo by Mack Casterman



Costal Prairie at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab site in Richmond Photo by Mack Casterman

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Annuals are coming up in the nursery! Contribute to your garden's color by grabbing a four-inch pot with lots of seedlings for only 5 dollars. We have annual lupines, blow-wives, Chinese houses, and others. If these annuals are happy and have special pollinator friends, they will likely re-seed for the coming year as well. Even though it is a dry wet-season, this is a good time to stake your claim to the more in-demand species, such as manzanita and ceanothus, many of which will become available as they root from cuttings. Be sure to check the nursery website, www.nativeherenursery.org, for an inventory updated at the beginning of each month.

Although the West is in a heavy drought, we are continuing to use the same minimal and direct watering techniques at the nursery that Charli Danielsen championed. Since I have the privilege of frequently being at the nursery, I am able to watch the dry brown buds swell and burst into new vibrant green leaves and sprays of flowers. This is a special time to be among our local plants.

We will be participating in this year's Bringing Back the Natives Tour, which will require extra volunteer support during the weekend of May 3rd-4th, when we will be open each day from 10am – 5pm. That Saturday we will also have a talk on "Losing Your Lawn" by our friends at the Bay Friendly

Coalition, followed by The Possum Family Singers playing Americana/Bluegrass tunes in the nursery.

Come to the 2014 Plant Fair planning meeting Saturday, Feb 15th from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. We will discuss the content of this year's annual EBCNPS mega get-together, which has historically raised significant funds for the Chapter. Please contribute your ideas and volunteer role preference via email to nativehere@ebcnps.org if you are not able to attend the meeting. Although the nursery has two employees for a total of 30 hours per week the vast majority of what the nursery accomplishes is due to our dedicated volunteers.

Are you interested in learning some of the important botanical terms to describe our wonderful flora? Join us for the third Sunday workshop on February 16th, *Botanical Nomenclature in the Garden: an Introduction to the Nameology of Pretty Green Things*, \$15 for CNPS members, \$25 for non-members. This will be a helpful introduction to forthcoming workshops that will be held on the identification of especially difficult plant groups, such as grasses, sedges, and sunflowers. We will be examining, smelling, feeling, and maybe even listening to plant material, so bring a hand lens if you have one (some extras will be provided, and binoculars also work tolerably well when turned backward). www.meetup.com/ebcnps

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

Registration for the Sunday, May 4, 2014 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is now open! This year's tour will fill; register now to reserve your place.

A variety of bird and butterfly friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving, low maintenance gardens that contain 60% or more native plants will be open on Sunday, May 4, 2014, from 10 am to 5 pm at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. More than 40 garden talks will be scheduled throughout the day.

Music in the Gardens. This year, to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Tour, a Music in the Gardens feature has been added. Come and hear the Appalachian dulcimer, lutes, flutes, banjos, guitars, Renaissance and folk music, and the *a cappella* Berkeley Community Chamber singers. Free, of course! See the garden guide for details.

Plant Sales. Native plants will be sold at numerous locations over the course of the weekend of May 3 and 4 during the Tour's Native Plant Sale Extravaganza.

Workshops. In addition to the Tour and plant sale, a series of workshops will be offered this spring. Learn how to sheet mulch your lawn away, or how to design a native plant garden that contains color throughout the year. Judy Adler will be leading three tours of her amazing Walnut Creek garden

(think chickens, pond, rainwater harvesting, native plants, fruit trees, seed collection, and more!).

Can you print and distribute Tour fliers? Due to budgetary constraints, this year we are not distributing Tour fliers. If you are able to print and distribute the flier we would be grateful.

Volunteers are needed to spend a morning or afternoon greeting tour participants and answering questions about natives. Complete the Volunteer section of the registration form if you would like to help out this year. Benefits to volunteers include invitations to Garden Soirees, in which tour gardens are open to hosts and volunteers; a pre-tour meeting with the owner and private tour of the garden you will be staffing; a guaranteed tour reservation for the half day you are free; a Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour t-shirt, and, perhaps best of all, heartfelt thanks for helping to educate the public about the many pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants. Prior to signing up to volunteer, browse the gardens to choose the garden you would like to be assigned to. Click here for more information on volunteering.

2015 Tour – Applications for the 2015 Tour are now being accepted. You can download the application form from the Tour website. Garden visits will be made in May and June. (Please note that gardens must contain at least 60% native plants.)

continued on page 5

Donations. This year, please join your fellow guests in supporting the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Given decreasing public agency support, we find it necessary to turn to Tour participants to help keep the tour going and to keep it free for those who cannot afford to pay. Please follow the instructions in the registration form to make your contribution, or you can donate here.

Advertise with us! A limited amount of ad space is still available in the printed garden guide. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in ad space, as the guide is being laid out now.

Facebook. “Like” us on Facebook! This spring the Garden Tour’s Facebook page will run articles such as “What to do in your native plant garden each month” and “What’s in bloom now?”; will describe the spring workshops; will feature spe-

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, February 9, 10 am, Sobrante Ridge

Meet at the end of Morningside Drive in Richmond/El Sobrante. This 3-mile hike (round trip) will take us through oak/bay woodlands, open grasslands, coastal scrub and manzanita chaparral, home to the rare Alameda manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*). This trail is moderately strenuous with some steep sections. Wear layers and sturdy shoes/boots. The views from the top can be spectacular. Bring lunch to eat at one of the picnic benches at the end of the hike.

Note: Morningside Drive is not an official entrance to Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve. There is only limited parking at the end of the cul-de-sac. Please park along Morningside or one of the side streets.

Directions: From Berkeley and points south via I-80: Take the San Pablo Dam exit and turn right onto San Pablo Dam Road. Go east on San Pablo Dam through El Sobrante, and then turn left onto May Road, right onto Valley View, and then right on Morningside and follow it all the way to the top.

Via Highway 24: Take the Orinda exit and go west on Camino Pablo through Orinda and past the reservoir. Camino Pablo becomes San Pablo Dam Road in El Sobrante. Once on San Pablo Dam Road, turn right on Valley View, and right again on Morningside and follow it all the way to the top.

Sunday, February 23, 10am, Mount Diablo, Curry Point

We will go through woodland, grasslands, chaparral areas, with chaparral pea, black sage, manzanitas, and silk-tassles. We should see Mount Diablo manzanita in flower, three other manzanita species, and knobcone pines. Gregg Webber will lead.

cific gardens; will show you before-and-after garden photos; and will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Don’t miss out!

I hope you enjoy this year’s Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour!

Kathy Kramer

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Coordinator

(510) 236-9558

kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net

www.bringingbackthenatives.net

Directions: Take 680 to the Diablo Road exit, and go east on Diablo Road. At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go past and do not turn at the Diablo Country Club sign. In about a mile, turn left at the Mt. Diablo State Park sign. Continue to the end of Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which becomes South Gate Road as it enters the park. Be prepared to pay the fee (now \$10?) at the main entrance station, or have your state parks pass ready. Continue for about a mile, and park at the large parking area at Curry Point, where we will meet. Remember to factor in about twenty minutes driving time from the base of the mountain to Curry Point.

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 11:00 am, Redwood Park 1A rare shrubs

Roy Buck (831-588-1776 roybuck@msn.com) will lead this 3-4 mile hike in Redwood Regional Park. We’ll expect to see two of the Bay Area’s rarest native shrubs, western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) and pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*), in flower, along with other interesting natives like oracle oak (*Quercus × morehus*) and, hopefully, some early-flowering wildflowers. There is one half-mile segment of steady, moderately steep uphill. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing; boots recommended. If rain is forecast, be prepared. Meet at the Redwood Bowl Staging Area parking lot.

Directions: From Highway 13 in Oakland, take Joaquin Miller Boulevard east about 1.2 miles to Skyline Boulevard. Turn left and proceed about 1.2 miles. The parking lot will be on the right, signed “Roberts Regional Park. Redwood Bowl Staging Area.” (If you get to the entrance to Chabot Space and Science Center, you’ve gone too far.) Heavy rain cancels.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, February 1, 10 am, Pt. Isabel at Eastshore State Park. Pt. Isabel at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, cell: 510-684-6484.

Saturday, February 8, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park Meet at the main parking lot, just to the right of Skyline, north of the intersection with Snake Road. We will decide where and what species to work on, depending on weather and personal interests. Gloves, water, and some tools provided. If you have questions or special tool requests, please e-mail jmanley@ebparks.org.

Saturday, February 15, 10 am, Garber Park. Please join us as we weed our restoration sites, do trail maintenance, and continue removing ivy from the ferns and other natives we find in the western part of Garber. Due to drought conditions Part 2 of the Woodland Slope Restoration has been cancelled. We will be offering exciting workshops in Garber in spring and summer. Wear long sleeves and pants and shoes with good tread. We provide tools, gloves, water and snacks. Meet at the Evergreen Lane entrance, 144 Evergreen Lane, Berkeley. For more information, a map, and directions, contact shelaghgarberparkstewards@gmail.com and visit our website garberparkstewards.org.

Sunday, February 16, 9 am, Sibley Regional Park. Meet at Skyline parking lot, about 1/4 mile north of the Huckleberry parking lot, unless there's notice of change of plans.

January's Pt. Isabel work party took place under warm, dry skies. Nearly a dozen regular volunteers and several new recruits, including young Oliver and Emanuel, joined us to help clear the trail of the significant mounds of weeds and other debris that we had been amassing as we awaited the delivery of a green waste dumpster from the Park District.

A small number of our newly placed plants, especially the California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), did not fare well during the very cold weeks of December and the ongoing drought conditions. Nevertheless, we are delighted to see how our California native plants will suddenly put up a tiny green shoot even when the main part of the plant looks as though it is no longer alive. We are fortunate to have access to a District water tap and are spending many hours now hand irrigating new plantings to tide them over until we get rain again.

In addition to filling up and packing down the green waste dumpster, with particular thanks to the efforts of Oliver and Emanuel, the January crew also planted 75 purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*), spread mulch, and picked up trash.

In early January, we also returned to Brooks Island to finish removing ice plant from the Caspian Tern nesting area. The terns could arrive on Brooks Island as early as the first week of March so we were glad to have the opportunity to make their temporary home as welcoming as possible. At the end of the labor intensive day District ranger Andy took us back to Richmond in the boat by circling around the entire Island, where we encountered many thousands of birds feeding in the Bay and filling the skies.

Many thanks as always to the EBRPD staff who provide us with all the support we could ask for and who not only make these projects possible but who also go out of their way to encourage us and engage us in new experiences.

Jane and Tom Kelly





Point Isabel volunteers. Oliver on the previous page, Emanuel, Tom, Daphne, and Chloe above, heavy work nearly done below. Photos by Jane Kelly.

OAKLAND ZOO REPORT

Knowland Park Supporters Rally at the Gates of the Zoo

On January 5th and again on January 20th EBCNPS, Friends of Knowland Park, and community members rallied in front of the Oakland Zoo to bring public attention to the zoo's plans to expand into Knowland Park. Over 100 people showed up on the 5th to carry signs, sing, chant, and listen to speakers engage the crowd. Our message—that the zoo is poised to take away valuable public park land to build an exhibit that is environmentally disastrous and financially unsound—was greeted with shouts of concern. Community members vowed to fight the development. Zoo police had erected barricades, but the demonstration was peaceful, even joyful with cars passing the intersection honking in support. Some passengers headed into the zoo flashed the peace sign, gave a thumbs up or honked their horn.

Park proponents picketed the zoo again on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, handing out flyers to the long lines of cars entering the zoo. The rallies brought a whole new cohort of volunteers drawn by the excitement and warmth of being on the street with fellow protestors. We plan on continuing to apply public pressure to the zoo with more opportunities for the public to join us— one of the most effective ways of broadcasting our message to save the park. Keep posted on the latest events by visiting www.saveknowland.org. Join the picket line and exercise your rights! Also, please sign both petitions on our website: to major Zoo donors and to Zoo Board members. Every signature counts.

In other news of the park, the attorney for EBCNPS has sent a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife complaining about “reconstruction” work at the project site. Community members reported that a geotechnical engineering consultant was driving all over the native grasslands, drilling and filling holes to take core samples for the structural engineers on the project. After seeing the numerous tire trademarks crisscrossing the grasslands, we asked the consultant to please try to avoid damaging the sensitive resources. He replied that he was unaware that he was working in an area that required protection. When asked what kind of protective guidelines the zoo had given him to avoid unnecessary impact, he said “None.”

Currently, the grasslands in the park are extremely stressed by the drought and the excessive goat grazing ordered by the Oakland Fire Department. We have repeatedly brought this to the attention of the OFD and to the regulatory agencies, but thus far we have gotten no response to our concerns. Visitors to the park describe the grasslands as a moonscape. With the continued drought, we continue to press the OFD to avoid heavy grazing in the coming season before the grasses and native forbs are permanently destroyed.

The Knowland Park Team



Scenes from the Knowland Park demonstration Photos by Robert Stokstad



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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events

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INative Here inventory specialist
Adam Huggins

Plant Fair

vacant

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janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

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Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders
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Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

☐ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

☐ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

- ☐ Individual, \$45
- ☐ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
- ☐ Plant lover, \$100
- ☐ Patron, \$300
- ☐ Benefactor, \$600
- ☐ Mariposa Lily, \$1500
- ☐ Limited Income or student, \$25.00
- ☐ Other _____